



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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May 30, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – PIONEER BOYS
RANCH, FOURL AND OAK CROSSING GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Pioneer Boys Ranch Fourl and Oak Crossing Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Pioneer Boys Ranch, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Fourl and Oak Crossing Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Fourl Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children, and Oak Crossing Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Homes are located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both Fourl and Oak Crossing Group Homes need to include the treatment team and the child in the development of the Needs and Services Plans; and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short term and long term goals for all children.

Fourl Group Home needs to replace the carpeting in the upstairs hallway and in bedroom two; paint the hallway walls; repair damaged walls in the bathroom and in bedrooms one and two; repair the ceiling in bedroom two; and replace the broken tiles and base boards in the upstairs bathroom.

Oak Crossing Group Home needs to repair the burners on the kitchen stove; repair the bathroom cabinet doors and knobs; clean the bathroom; and repair and paint the walls in all of the bedrooms.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Greg Lungerman, Executive Director, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Pioneer Boys Ranch
Fourl Group Home
24700 Fourl Road
Newhall, California 91321
Phone: (661) 254-8544
License Number: 19120019
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Fourl Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home and common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the upstairs hallway the carpeting is dirty , and the walls have unfinished patch work. In the upstairs bathroom, the walls are dirty, the wall behind the toilet has holes, tiles are cracked, and the base boards have water damage.

Children's bedrooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, bedrooms one and two have unfinished patch work on the walls and ceilings, and the carpeting in bedroom two is dirty and worn.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Pioneer Boys Ranch management:

- a. Clean or replace the carpeting in the hallway and in bedroom two.**

- b. Repair and paint the walls and ceilings in the hallway, bathroom, and in the children's bedrooms as needed.
- c. Replace the broken tiles in the bathroom.
- d. Replace the base boards in the bathroom.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team does not develop or implement the NSPs, and NSPs do not include input from the child. The Needs and Services Plans are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Pioneer Boys Ranch management:

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long-term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Pioneer Boys Ranch
Oak Crossing Group Home
26541 Oak Crossing Road
Newhall, California 91321
Phone: (661) 252-5714
License Number: 197604256
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Oak Crossing Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, two of the kitchen stove burners do not work. The upstairs bathroom cabinet doors are broken and are missing knobs, and the tile around the bathtub has mold and mildew.

Children's bedrooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the walls in the bedrooms are dirty and have unfinished patch work.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Pioneer Boys Ranch management:

- a. Repair the burners on the kitchen stove.**
- b. Repair the bathroom cabinet doors.**
- c. Clean the bathroom areas that have mold and mildew.**

- d. Repair and paint the walls in the bedrooms.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team does not develop or implement the NSPs, and NSPs do not include input from the child. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Pioneer Boys Ranch management:

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long-term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.



Pioneer Boys Ranch

ATTACHMENT
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A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Group Home Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller
Hall of Administration
500 West Temple St.
Room 515-A
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012
Fax: 213-346-9020
3/16/06

Dear Mrs. Rhue,

I am enclosing a corrective action plan for Pioneer Boys Ranch in response to your agency's letter of 2/13/06 in reference to a visit by Elaine Clark to two of our facilities on 1/31/06.

Mrs. Clark made the following recommendations regarding our facility at 24700 Fourl Rd., Newhall Ca. 91321.

Regarding the facility Mrs. Clark made the following recommendations:

1. Replace the carpeting in the hallway and bedroom two.
2. Repair and paint the walls and ceilings in the hallway, bathroom and children's bathroom.
3. Replace the broken tiles in the bathroom.
4. Replace the base boards in the bathroom.

Pioneer Boys Ranch has had the upstairs bedroom measured and the carpeting will be replaced within 30 days. As the downstairs hallway carpet is a match with the living room our plan is to repair this carpet within the next 30 days. The upstairs hallway walls have been patched and sanded and painting will be complete within the next 30 days. Prior to Mrs. Clark's visit we were aware of problems in the bathroom and had intended a major repair as a part of our rotating maintenance schedule. We are enclosing an estimate received for the bathroom which will make all necessary repairs including tiling up the walls, replacing the floor tile, toilet, mirror and light fixture. These repairs will be completed within the next 90 days.

The Pioneer Boys Ranch Administrator, Mr. Greg Iungerman will be the person responsible for overseeing and assuring these repairs.

Regarding the facility Mrs. Clark made the following recommendations:

1. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
2. Develop comprehensive Needs and Service Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short term goals.

Dr. Gary Wycoff, a member of the Pioneer Boys Ranch staff will meet with Dr. Michael Guttstadt of the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center to develop new formats to meet the above goals. The Santa Clarita and Family Center currently provide mental health services to all of the residents of Pioneer Boys Ranch. It is expected that Dr. Wycoff and Dr. Guttstadt will accomplish this task by 7/1/06 in time for the second quarter reporting period.

There were no further recommendations for this facility.

Mrs. Clark made the following recommendations regarding our facility at 26541 Oak Crossing Rd., Newhall, Ca. 91321.

Regarding the facility Mrs. Clark recommended the following:

1. Repair the burners on the kitchen stove
2. Repair the bathroom cabinet doors.
3. Clean the bathroom areas that have mold and mildew.
4. Repair and paint the walls in all of the bedrooms.

As of 2/5/06 the stove burners have been cleaned and are functioning. The "repair" of the cabinet door consisted of replacing the knob (hole) which the residents removed. This was completed as of 2/15/06. It should be noted that this reoccurs regularly. Repairs have been completed in the bedrooms as of 3/14/06 and painting of the bedrooms will be completed within the next 30 days. The "mold and mildew" in the bathroom was actually hard water stains which require a maintenance man and a toxic cleaner. This cleaning will be accomplished by 3/31/06.

The Pioneer Boys Ranch Administrator, Mr. Greg lungerman will be the person responsible for overseeing and assuring these repairs.

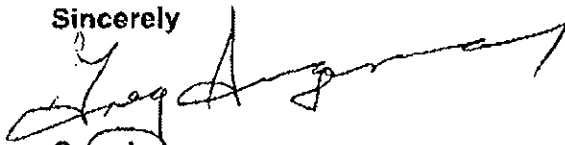
Regarding Program services Mrs. Clark recommended:

3. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
4. Develop comprehensive Needs and Service Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short term goals.

Dr. Gary Wycoff, a member of the Pioneer Boys Ranch staff will meet with Dr. Michael Guttstadt of the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center to develop new formats to meet the above goals. The Santa Clarita and Family Center currently provide mental health services to all of the residents of Pioneer Boys Ranch. It is expected that Dr. Wycoff and Dr. Guttstadt will accomplish this task by 7/1/06 in time for the second quarter reporting period.

We hope that the above corrections meet with your approval. Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Iungerman", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Iungerman
Administrator